

ALLOWANCE

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 18, 2009 has been entered.
2. Applicants' amendment filed May 18, 2009 is acknowledged and has been entered. Claims 1-87, 90-93, 102-105 and 108-111 have been canceled. Claims 88, 89, 95, 97, 98, 101, 106 and 107 have been amended. Claims 88, 89, 94-101, 106 and 107 are now pending in the instant application. All rejections have been withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment to the instant claims.
3. As per interview with Ling Zhong, 48290 on June 18, 2009, Applicant gave approval to amend the specification as set forth below.
4. In the instant specification, on page 1, line 1, please add the following continuity statement:

The present application is a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/GB99/03635, filed November 3, 1999 and published in English on May 11, 2000 as International Publication No. WO 00/26248, which claims priority benefit from Great Britain Application No. 9824213.4 filed November 4, 1998, and United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/107,004 filed November 4, 1998, the contents of each of which are incorporated by reference herein.

5. Claims 88, 89, 94-101, 106 and 107 have been allowed and renumbered 1-12 respectively. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. M. Minnifield whose telephone number is 571-272-0860. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert B. Mondesi can be reached on 571-272-0956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. M. Minnifield/
N. M. Minnifield
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1645
June 8, 2009